

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on October 6, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully considered.

Claims 1 and 11 are the independent claims. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that claims 8 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, these claims have not been rewritten into independent form, since it is respectfully submitted that the rejected base claims 1 and 11 are patentably distinguishable over the cited references for at least the following reasons.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 and 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hino et al.* (US 6,002,906) in view of *Yong* (US 5,854,670). It is submitted that these claims are patentably distinguishable over the cited references for at least the following reasons.

Applicant's independent claim 1 recites an image reading device, including a continuous reading controller switch and a control unit. The continuous reading controller switch is for receiving a continuous reading instruction of a user and outputting a control signal. The control unit is for controlling the image reading device and receiving the control signal to implement

the continuous reading and outputting operations of the image reading device.

When the continuous reading controller switch is activated by the user, the control unit drives the image reading device to read a page of a packaged document placed at a reading position, and after a time period predetermined by the control unit to allow the scanned page to be manually turned over by the user, another page of packaged document placed at the reading position is then continued to be read.

The Examiner has acknowledged that *Hino et al.* fails to disclose "wherein after a time period predetermined by said control unit to allow the scanned page to be manually turned over by the user, another page of the packaged document placed at the reading position is then continued to be read". To overcome this admitted deficiency, the Examiner relies on the teachings of *Yong*. The Examiner considers that *Yong*, in view of the paragraph, col. 6, lines 45-59, and the paragraph, col. 6, lines 37-45, discloses such features. *Yong* discloses an image forming device comprising a z-shaped assembling module 1, for catching the image, formed on the top portion of the image forming device (col. 3, lines 46-49 & FIG. 1). A movable plate-like platform 8 under the z-shaped assembling module 1 is loaded with face-up bound originals (see label 11 in FIG. 1) or unbound ones, and the image of the originals is caught by the dual direction lens system 13 and transmitted by the light guide unit 100 to the image recording unit 2 (col. 3, lines 61 through col. 4, lines 12 & FIG. 2). One feature of *Yong's* invention is that the

image forming device has both unbound and bound originals all face-up loaded at certain angles on a table-like frame of the device, instead of face-down loaded on a platen (col. 1, lines 41-45).

Furthermore, the paragraph, col. 6, lines 37-45, of *Yong*, relied on by the Examiner as the teaching of the claimed invention, discloses that the image forming device has three main programmed operating modes, i.e. unbound, flat open bound, and angled open bound, according to the type of the originals. Each of the operating modes can be operated either automatically or manually. "Manually" means that turning pages of the originals and reloading them at a certain angle in a registered position are accomplished by a user's hands, and "automatically" means that the above work is fully conducted by the device. Another paragraph, col. 6, lines 45-59, of *Yong* discloses how pieces of the image forming device cooperate with each other in the automatic mode. However, the fact that the image forming device of *Yong* allows the page to be manually turned over by the user is not equivalent to another page of the packaged document, placed at the reading position, is then continued to be read after a time period predetermined by the control unit, to allow the scanned page to be manually turned over by the user, as recited in claimed invention. As such, it is submitted that *Yong* fails to disclose that after a time period predetermined by the control unit to allow the scanned page to be turned over, another page of the packaged document placed at the reading position is then continued to be read.

Thus, even if the teachings of *Hino et al.* and *Yong* were combined, the combination would not result in the claimed invention. It is therefore submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn.

It is therefore submitted that Applicant's independent claim 1, as well as the claims 2-7 and 9-10 dependent therefrom, are not anticipated by (or rendered obvious by) the cited references. Moreover, the independent claim 11 includes features similar to those of claim 1, except that the subject matter thereof is a continuous reading controlling device. It therefore is submitted that independent claim 11, as well as its dependant claims 12-17 and 19-20, are patentable over the applied references for at least the same reasons that the independent claim 1 is patentable. As such, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The Action has also rejected various ones of the dependent claims in view of various ones of the cited references. However, these other cited references do not overcome the above-noted deficiencies of *Hino et al.* and *Yong*.

Based on the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such a Notice, with allowed claims 1-20 earnestly solicited.

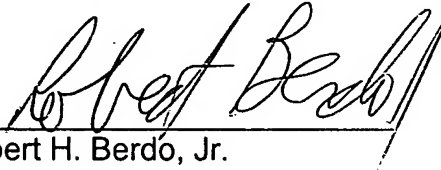
Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Should any fee be required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

January 3, 2007

Date



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